

Enhancing Great Lakes Engagement, Outreach and Education
“Text Box” (to be placed near the intro)

The 2012 GLWQA recognizes that the involvement and participation of all levels of government, indigenous peoples, watershed management and other local public agencies, and the public are essential to achieve the objectives of the Agreement. In support of ensuring this necessary involvement, outreach, engagement and education of issues relevant to the implementation of the 2012 GLWQA has been enhanced.

“Public engagement” is one of the principles that the Agreement is built on and the Parties have committed to incorporating public opinion and advice, as appropriate, and providing information and opportunities for the public to participate in activities that contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Agreement. There are numerous commitments throughout the Articles and Annexes of the 2012 GLWQA that specify where the Parties are required to cooperate and consult with state and provincial governments, tribal governments, First Nations, Métis, municipal governments, watershed management agencies, other local public agencies, and the public in order to achieve the specific commitment. There are also specific instances in the Agreement that call for outreach and education by the Parties, as well as by the International Joint Commission.

Under the 2012 GLWQA, overall public outreach through communication and opportunities for providing information and generally educating the public have significantly improved through the use of online and interactive tools such as binational.net, domestic websites, binational and domestic email distribution lists, GLIN-announce etc. This has allowed the Parties to be more transparent and open regarding the activities being undertaken under the 2012 GLWQA.

Table X provides a high-level summary of the some of the binational and domestic engagement, outreach and education efforts over the first three years of the implementation of the 2012 GLWQA.

Table X – Summary of engagement, outreach and education efforts over 2013 to 2016

Reference in 2012 GLWQA	Engagement, Outreach and Education Efforts
Article 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of the public through the Great Lakes Public Forum (in 2013 and every 3 years thereafter) related to state of the Great Lakes, progress achieved, and the development of the binational priorities for science and action to guide future work. [hyperlink to PRP pg] Increased discussions and engagement with the International Joint Commission, the Great Lakes Commission, and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. [hyperlink to PRP pg] Engagement of numerous agencies, organizations, and individuals with responsibilities related to the Great Lakes is possible through the Great Lakes Executive Committee, Annex Subcommittees and Extended Subcommittees, and Task Teams and helps ensure implementation of commitments throughout the GLWQA. [hyperlink to PRP pg]
Annex 1 Areas of Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement and participation of community groups in clean-up of Areas of Concern. [hyperlink to PRP pg]

Annex 2 Lakewide Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Superior Lakewide and Action Management Plan • Finalization of Lake Ecosystem Objectives for Lake Erie • Engagement of a wide range of people and organizations in development of the Nearshore Framework. [hyperlink to PRP pg] • Outreach and engagement activities undertaken through the work of the Lake Partnerships and the Lakewide Management Annex Subcommittee. [hyperlink to PRP pg]
Annex 2 Lakewide Management	the development of a Nearshore Framework
Annex 3 Chemicals of Mutual Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced engagement of stakeholders, including non-government organizations, industry, academia and the public, in the establishment of the first round of Chemicals of Mutual Concern. [hyperlink to PRP pg]
Annex 4 Nutrients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive consultation in the establishment of new phosphorus reduction targets. [hyperlink to PRP pg's] • Stakeholders are being engaged in the development of the binational phosphorus reduction strategies and domestic action plans. [hyperlink to PRP pg]
Annex 5 Discharges from Vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public and stakeholder outreach through the Great Lakes Waterway Conferences related to discharges from vessels. [hyperlink to PRP pg]
Annex 6 Aquatic Invasive Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and education campaigns, programs, and products, to support minimizing the risk of the entry and spread of aquatic invasive species. [hyperlink to PRP pg]
Annex 7 Habitat and Species	the development of biodiversity conservation strategies
Annex 8 Groundwater	<p>information on the current state of groundwater science</p> <p>the compilation of existing Groundwater science currently available</p>
Annex 9 Climate Change Impacts	<p>information on the current state of climate change science in the Great Lakes</p> <p>climate change webinars with interested stakeholders</p>
A list of binational engagement opportunities, past and present, is maintained at binational.net (https://binational.net/engagement-participation/).	
Domestic Engagement, Outreach and Education Efforts Supporting 2012 GLWQA	
Engagement opportunities exist under various Canadian domestic programs and activities that support implementation of the 2012 GLWQA such as:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of Areas of Concern (http://www.ec.gc.ca/doc/eau-water/grandslacs-greatlakes_e.htm) • Canada's Chemical Management Plan (http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/fact-fait/overview-vue-eng.php) • Great Lakes Nutrient Initiative (https://www.ec.gc.ca/grandslacs-greatlakes/default.asp?lang=En&n=4FF37866-1) • Canadian Marine Advisory Council (https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/rsqa-cmac-menu-826.htm). 	

The Government of Ontario undertook ...

- Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy 2016 Progress Report (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontarios-great-lakes-strategy-2016-progress-report#section-3>) outlines numerous successes and achievements related to engagement, outreach and education efforts under the Strategy's "Goal 1: Engaging and empowering communities".

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